

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 4 were rejected by Examiner as being anticipated by Sinchok US Pat No. 4,763,886. Specifically, the Examiner asserted that Sinchok discloses a main tube 19 having upper and lower shoulders (upper and lower horizontal surfaces of 19), and an upper collar 21 including an inwardly extending flange (at 21 generally). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites a "shoulder" which is formed by two different surfaces. In the present invention, the shoulder is formed as a result of the main tube having top and bottom portions with reduced diameter as compared with the main tube. The top portion with the reduced diameter is in fact for receiving the upper collar. Sinchok fails to disclose this feature.

As disclosed in Figure 2 of Sinchok, element (upper collar) 21 is used to hold elements 33, 29 by encircling them, as shown in Fig. 2. The upper collar 21 therefore cannot be said to "rest" on the upper surface of the element 19. As stated in col 2: 47~51, "In use, the semi-circular collars are joined or mated to form a complete collar about the central hub portion 19. Upper cap 21 is placed about the circular collar thus formed by the mating semi-circular portions 29 and 33 to hold them together in that position." Instead of resting on the upper surface of element 19, the collar 21 of Sinchok rests on the base of elements 33 and 29.

In addition, claim 1 has been modified to include a recitation of "...including a pair of second supporting legs extending from the upper and lower collars respectively." Sinchok fails to disclose feature as well. As disclosed, the legs of Sinchok have nothing to do with the upper collar 21.

These deficiencies are not made up for by the Frost patent, which discloses the arrangement illustrated in prior art Fig. 1 of the present application, in which the positions of the legs is maintained by locking wing nuts rather than the claimed collars.

Having thus overcome each of the rejections made in the Official Action, withdrawal of the rejections and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 28, 2004

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